

Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ASSOCIATIONS MEET IN OCTOBER

Ala.-Tenn. met at Cullman, St. John's Church, September 28, 1974. Program included music by the Quartet from the church, Holy Communion, and several churches reporting on "The United Church of Christ Witness in our Community."

N. Alabama meets at Jones Chapel, Moulton, October 5, 1974, and will honor Dr. Guy L. Colbert, for 20 years the Pastor-At-Large of the Association. He will retire at the end of 1974. On October 6, 1974, he will ordain to the Christian Ministry several who have been studying under his leadership. At the same service at the Caddo Church he will renew the ministerial vows of those who have been trained and served under his leadership.

East Alabama meets October 16, at Lowell Church, Roanoke, and at Pleasant Grove Church, October 17. Guest speaker will be Dr. W. W. Snyder, of the Elon Home for Children. The Local Church Consultants will be involved in the program also.

South Alabama meets at Good Hope Church, Baker, Florida, Oct. 19, and will have "Strengthening the Local Church" as its theme. Dr. W. W. Snyder, of the Elon Home, will also be present.

Central Alabama meets October 20, at Seman Community Church, Seman, Alabama. They will meet at 10 a.m., and will conclude with the afternoon business session. Dr. W. W. Snyder will be guest speaker.

Georgia-South Carolina meets October 26, at Bonanza Church, Jonesboro. "Fellowship of Kindred Minds" will be the theme and K. C. Johnson will be the worship leader. The Association will meet in the new church building of Bonanza Church, celebrate with the church this accomplishment, honor the members at dinner on Saturday evening, have a party celebrating a "New Church" in the Association, and worship Sunday with the Bonanza people.



AT PLANNING CONF. — (L-R): John DeBoer, Ray Bachman, Emily Lester, Warren Blankenhorn, Franklin Thomas, W. J. Andes.

SE CONFERENCE PERSONNEL MEET NATIONAL EXECS

At Rome, Georgia, on September 3-5, representatives of National Instrumentalities met with Southeast Conference personnel in a Planning Meeting. Purpose of the meeting was to develop an Area Strategy in which national Instrumentalities and the Southeast Conference could plan what needs to be done in the Southeast for several years and what resources are available.

Attending from the Southeast were: W. J. Andes, Warren A. Blankenhorn, Franklin Thomas, Henry W. Tuttle, and David Beebe; from the Stewardship Council, Karlton C. Johnson; from the Office of Church Life and Leadership, Emily Lester; from Board for Homeland Ministries, John DeBoer, Percel Alston, and Ray Bachman.

Some things discussed were: Small Church Development, New Church Starts in several urban centers, strategy in Metropolitan Areas where United Church of Christ needs to be, Black Church Development, Ministerial Leadership continuously upgraded, Church School Curriculum related to needs of local church, Evangelism, Strengthening the Local Church, and World Missions.

Southeast Conference 17/76 Committee

Rev. Bill Andes — Conference Minister; Mr. Franklin Thomas — N. Y. — Chairperson; Mr. Roland Kampmeier — Chattanooga — Co-Chp.; Ms. Laura Askren — Atlanta, Central; Ms. Ruth Barefield-Pendleton — Birmingham, First; Rev. Warren Blankenhorn; Mr. Wallace Boothby — Birmingham, Pilgrim; Dr. Alford Carleton — Pleasant Hill;

Rev. Edward Driscoll — Atlanta, Central; Rev. Stephen Gray, Nashville, Brookmeade; Ms. Peggy Hall — Pleasant Hill; Mr. Milton Hurst — Talladega College; Rev. Karlton Johnson — Atlanta — UCC — Stewardship Council; Mr. Richard MacMorran — Atlanta, Central — Major Gifts Chairman; Dr. James Mason — Huntsville, United; Rev. Homer McEwen — Atlanta, First;

Mr. J. K. Murphy, Pine Mountain; Rev. Bill Scott — Atlanta, Central; Rev. Henry Tuttle — Huntsville, United; Ms. Helen Washington — Savannah, First; Dr. Wilson Welch — Nashville, Howard and Fisk Univ. Faculty; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Robbs — Chattanooga, First Church; Dr. David Beebe — Chattanooga, Pilgrim.

In Southeast Conference, as of this writing, 10 Committee members have pledged a total of \$3,960.

Franklin Thomas Accepts New Post

Mr. Franklin Thomas, Chairman for the 17-76 Committee in Southeast Conference, has accepted the position of Director of Personnel Services for the National Council of YMCA's in New York City.

Mr. Thomas previously served as Director of Personnel for the City of Atlanta. He will continue to function as Chairman for the Southeast 17-76 Committee, and plans to maintain his residence in Atlanta, for a while.

He has had 21 years service with the YMCA.

Elder, Dadeville Has Camp In Woods

The four to eight year-old boys and girls enjoyed a two day session of Day Camp at Elder, August 1-2. One of the men of the church put a tent in the wooded area on the church grounds, and Mrs. Woodroe Washburn gathered up the six children each day and brought them in at 9:30. They all enjoyed helping get the camp site ready. A rope was strung between two trees on which to hang the sack lunches and water was brought and put in a large container for use during the day. It pleased them to hang their drinking cups on a cup tree they fixed near the tent.

Each morning and directly after lunch the children gathered quietly in the church for a short worship service of their own. They enjoyed lighting the candles, saying Bible verses and singing choruses. Colored pennants were made with their names and Bible verses on them and hung on the trees around the tent. They especially enjoyed making miniature lakes and tiny sail boats to sail on them. Bible stories were told under the tent and the characters like Eli and Samuel were made to come to life as they acted them out.

There were sessions for hand-crafts and playing games. After camp closed on Friday afternoon, everyone enjoyed a trip to Horseshoe Bend Park.

— Beth Washburn

Women's Fellowship Program Suggestions

Let's try some new things this year, 1974-75, and vary our accustomed way of planning and doing circle and Fellowship meetings. Why not use your monthly magazine, A. D., which has a wealth of materials to supplement your packets. Here are a few ideas you might like to try.

1. Do some research on such subjects as SHALOM and THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT (A. D. magazine has information on these subjects).

2. Try some dialogue; have you ever read together a play, a book, or parts of a book?

3. Learn some new songs and memorize them.

4. Get reprints of THE STATEMENT OF FAITH for each member and memorize them.

5. Try a contemporary worship theme now and then.

6. Select some portions of the Bible to read together (bring your Bibles); then have a discussion as to its meaning. (A. D.

CHURCHES and MINISTERS MAKE NEWS

Rev. Alton M. Nixon began his pastorate at Phenix City, First Church, on September 22, 1974. He is a licensed minister of S. Ala-N. W. Florida Association and was serving Baker, Pyron's Chapel.

Rev. Graham Norris has resigned his pastorate of Bethany and Rock Stand Churches near Roanoke, Ala., to become pastor again of Mountain Creek, Union Church, Mountain Creek, Alabama.

Rev. Ralph Worley, Roanoke, Ala., has accepted the call of Pleasant Grove Church, near Roanoke, to be their pastor. He has been serving the Pleasant Grove and Noon Day Churches.

Rev. Ellis Fann has resigned as pastor of Beachton, Ga., Evergreen Church.

Rev. Artis Johnson is serving both Evergreen and Bethany Churches in Thomasville, Ga.

Southern Alabama Area Mini-Youth Conference was held at Wadley, Alabama, Southern Union College, August 24-25, 1974, and well attended. Chaplain Bob Tripp of Eglin Air Force Base, Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., was the leader.

Chaplain Bob Tripp, of Eglin Air Force Base is now serving as part-time pastor at Bonifay, New Effort Church, Fla.

Churches in the East Alabama Association met at Roosevelt Park on Sunday evening, Sept. 15, for a picnic and an evening service. Over 200 attended. On Sept. 29, the Fifth Sunday Night Sing was held in Langdale Church.

Rev. Stephen Grey will be installed as pastor of Nashville, Brookmeade Church, on Sunday, November 10, 4 P. M.

Dr. Arnold Slater began his services as interim minister at Birmingham, Pilgrim, on Sunday, September 22.

Dr. Alford Carleton, in a recent address at Pleasant Hill, Tenn., spoke on "Changing Situations in the Middle East." He emphasized the deep-seated emotional factors existing among all factions in the Middle East and compound the difficulties involved in seeking peaceful solutions. He paid tribute to the patience and skill of Sec. Henry Kissinger in his negotiations with Israel and the Arab states. He stressed the urgency of sending business men of basic integrity to do business in the Middle East.

FIVE ISSUES OF OUR TIME

is Summer Theme of Atlanta, Central

During the month of August, Central Church, Atlanta, used the theme, "Five Issues of our Time — 1974" with a different preacher each Sunday. Following the morning worship service, a discussion was held when opportunity was given to ask questions and comment on the preacher's message. The list of preachers and subjects was:

AUGUST 4 — "Cry of the Prisoner". Preacher: George Castillo, Chaplain at Federal Penitentiary. Karlton Johnson served as liturgist and Daniel Barbee led the "Conversation Afterward."

AUGUST 11 — "Morale of Christian Ministry". Preacher: Donald Campbell, Personnel Services, Presbyterian Church, USA. Liturgist: Ben Boone, and leading the conversation afterward: W. J. Andes.

AUGUST 18 — "Toward a Fairer City". Preacher: Harmon Moore, Exec. Dir., Christian Council of Metro. Atlanta. Liturgist: Irving Fisk; and leading the conversation afterward: Laura Askren, pres. Women's Fellowship.

AUGUST 25 — "Toward Restoration of National Unity". Preacher: Theodore Weber, Candler School of Theology, Atlanta. Liturgist: Channing Jeschke, Librarian at Candler School of Theology. Conversation afterward: Robert McMath, teacher of history, Ga. Tech.

SEPTEMBER 1 — Preachers: Franklin Thomas, personnel Dir., City of Atlanta, Lay Life and Work Chairperson, UCC.; Edward Brown, Counselor in private practice and minister, UCC. Jean Thomas and Freda Brown served as resource persons. Both couples had attended a conference on "Peace Priority" in New Hampshire this summer. Leading the conversation afterward was Glenn Kaufman, member of Central's Social Action Committee.

There was good response both with attendance and participation in the "Conversation Afterward", which took place around the fireplace during the "Coffee Hour."

North Ala. Youth Meet

The North Alabama Area Youth meeting was held July 21, at Caddo Church. The young people of that church put on a program called, "America Depends On You." Then there was special singing. 97 were in attendance.

It was decided that the next youth meeting of all churches would be at Jones Chapel, Sunday, Nov. 10, 1974.

— Lisa Shelton, president

SOUTH ALABAMA PLANS TOGETHER

On Friday evening and Saturday, September 13 & 14, sixteen ministers and eighteen laymen from the Southern Alabama Area met at the Landmark Motor Inn, Montgomery, Alabama, for a planning Conference. The 34 participants represented 13 churches from East Alabama, Central Alabama, and South Alabama-Northwest Florida Associations.

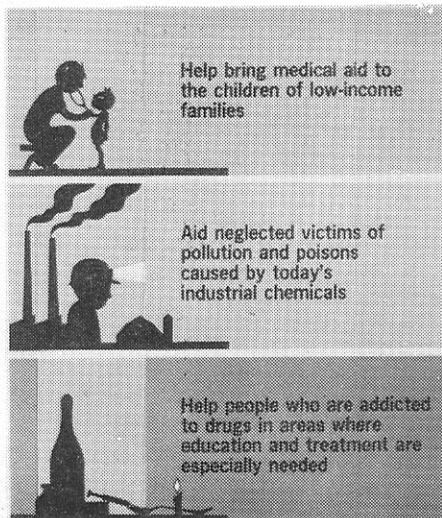
The Planning Conference was under the direction of the Rev. David Chandler, Moderator of Southern Alabama Area Council and pastor of Hillside Church in LaGrange, Ga. The various sessions received guidance from "Strengthening the Local Church" Consultants under the leadership of Mr. J. K. Murphy from Oak Grove Church, Pine Mt., Ga.

Participants were encouraged to dream unlimited dreams for the Area — and dream they did! Some of the more prominent dreams that received continuing interest throughout the Conference were these: (1) The formation of training programs for leadership among the laity. (2) Improved education for and greater participation in Our Christian World Mission. (3) Upgrading the understanding of ministry in the Area. (4) The realization of greater community involvement. (5) The strengthening of Christian responsibility among churches. (6) The transformation of the three Associations making up the Southern Alabama Area into one Association.

The participants then chose from the above dreams three to develop more specifically, as follows:

- (1) Training programs for laity;
- (2) Education for O.C.W.M., and
- (3) Upgrading the understanding of ministry.

From these dreams, goals were formulated, and each goal focused into reachable objectives. Some of those objectives included: (1) to develop our resources of persons willing to accept new ideas about O.C.W.M. and become involved in this ministry of stewardship; (2) to develop seminars for the laity in teacher training, responsibilities of members who serve on governing boards in churches, church administration, and evangelism; (3) to encourage each churchman to evaluate himself through "Faith Exploration" and each church to evaluate itself and its program as it presently exists by using "Strengthening the Local Church" consultants and guidelines; (4) to have the Committees on Church and Ministry of our Area write position papers on the meaning and significance of ordination. The participants then proceeded to devise detailed



Neighbors In Need Offering October 6

A new broader program and an important change is forthcoming in the use of the Neighbors in Need all-church offering. From the offering on October 6th, NIN will support the above named three projects in 1975 which implement the priority adopted by the Ninth General Synod relating to improving public health.

plans for reaching the objectives.

From the very beginning of the planning conference, benefit began to be realized. Attendance was excellent. Those dimensions of Christianity which make the body of Christ real — concern, love, fellowship, unity, a willingness to share ourselves with one another — were much evidenced. We have dreamed dreams and seen visions. Our prayer now is that these dreams will become practical and living realities in our Area.

— W. David Chandler

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The Larry Johnsons Retire



Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Johnson

Rev. and Mrs. S. Lawrence Johnson retired officially as pastor and wife of Birmingham, Pilgrim Church as of August 1, 1974.

They are happily living in their new retirement home at 1430 John Wesley Circle, Birmingham, Alabama 35210. Between their permanent home and their mobile home, they hope to enjoy life and do more traveling.

GOOD NEWS FROM LANETT

The Vacation Bible School was well attended and there was a good spirit prevailing all the time. The children were most interested in what they were learning and doing. We commend our entire staff for the excellent job they did. We are also grateful to the parents for their cooperation and for so many of them coming to the closing exercises.

The offerings this year totalled \$100 and will be sent to help provide Bibles for people in communist lands.

On August 11 we celebrated HOMECOMING. We had a good crowd for Homecoming in spite of the fact that there were other Homecomings being celebrated the same day.

Rev. Joe French preached an inspiring sermon in our service that day. We were pleased to have the Rev. and Mrs. Walter Hall and family here for the Homecoming celebration as well.

After a meal spread with many good things, we enjoyed almost two hours of music sung by the Wayfarers.

Many returned in the evening for the first service of our Revival. Our choir sang "This is Jesus" for the evening service with Mr. Jimmy Smith singing the solo parts of the anthem. Every evening of our Revival he inspired us with his beautiful singing voice and his piano playing.

The Holy Spirit's presence was felt each night as He led and inspired both the sung and spoken word.

The congregational singing was great under the direction of Willie McGill.

Outreach Corporation At Knoxville

The Outreach Corporation, sponsored by Church of the Savior for the purpose of initiating special projects in the community has been accepted as a tax-exempt organization. This means that contributions made to any project initiated and/or administered by the corporation are tax deductible. President of the corporation is Robert Livingston. Five of the 11 members of the board will come from outside the membership of the congregation.

MISSIONARY RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED

Church of the Savior has entered into a relationship with Miss Ruth Hofsteter, mission representative in India and nurse at Evangelical Hospital in Orissa.

Miss Hofsteter will be listed in the weekly church bulletin. The church will correspond with her and share her letters with the congregation. She will be the personal link with one of the many mission fields supported by United Church of Christ, through O.C.W.M.

KNOXVILLE JUNIORS HAVE SEED PROJECT

The Lower Junior Department of our Knoxville (Church of the Savior) Church School had as its project this summer collecting money for vegetable seeds for underdeveloped countries.

KNOXVILLE HAS CHILD CARE PROGRAM

Two five-week programs for pre-school children on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. were offered this summer at Church of the Savior.

Plans were made to operate a full-scale Day Care Program beginning the first week in September. A license to handle 25 children 3 and 4 years old was sought. Play area and equipment were developed by students from the School of Architecture, U. of Tennessee.

RAY MESERVE MEMORIAL ESTABLISHED

The Rev. Ray Meserve died June 15, 1974, in Groton, Massachusetts. Being the organizing pastor for Church of the Savior, he served the congregation from 1956 - 1962. He struggled with all the problems of the downtown situation. A memorial has been established at the Church in his memory.

Men wielding power, whether in big or small nations, should be constantly reminded of the old adage that a true leader of a people is its servant."

—Jamil Baroody, Saudi Arabia
Representative to the
United Nations

LETTER to the PRESIDENT

August 20, 1974

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Both personally and in behalf of the United Church of Christ, I wish you success during your occupancy of the high office of President of the United States.

Through our meetings in the Congressional Prayer Breakfasts in Washington, I have been impressed by your friendliness, openness and candor. Your devotion to high moral standards and to the basic aspirations of the people of the United States of America has been established through your many years of public service and leadership.

I am especially impressed by your determination to reunite our people in a common bond, and offer whatever support I can give to that effort. Your compassionate concern for the welfare of our youth who were conscientious objectors to the Viet Nam war is especially welcome. Your initiation of a process under which they may be reunited with their homes and homeland is a first step toward justice and a tremendous step forward toward conciliating many of our youth.

We respect the courage and straightforwardness you have demonstrated in assuming the awesome responsibilities of the Presidency. You have asked all of us to join you in prayers for the country and for God's guidance for you. You are, indeed, remembered in our prayers. We shall continue to pray for your good health and welfare and that of your family, as well as for your success in the Presidency.

Sincerely yours,

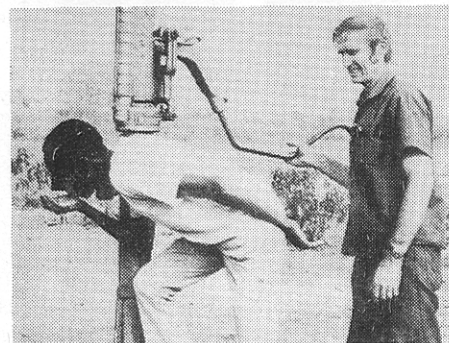
Robert V. Moss, president
United Church of Christ

Garden City Church News

Revival services were conducted at the Garden City, Ala., Congregational Christian Church — from August 18 to 23. It was our pleasure to have as guest speaker, Dr. Charles West, who teaches Theology and Philosophy at Athens College, Athens, Alabama. The Rev. Mr. West is also pastor of the Smokerise Methodist Church, Smokerise, Alabama.

The Rev. Floyd M. Price,
Reporter

Pure Water From A Well



Jim Winter and director of the primary school at Yoo-Kope who is enjoying pure water from a newly drilled well.

Pure drinking water, which results in better health, is one of the goals of Jim Winter as he works in the villages of the Atapame-Akposso region. In the photo above, Jim is with the director of the primary school at Yao-Kope, who is enjoying water from a new well recently drilled beside his school. He has been using water from the well to teach irrigation practices to his students. One of the least expensive ways of drilling wells like this requires the hand labor of eight men who use a tool resembling a post-hole auger to drill twenty-five to seventy-five feet down to reach water.

WOMEN'S . . . (Con't from P. 2)

magazine has a prepared Bible Study each month).

7. Use a film or two. (Try a church-wide fellowship meal followed by a film. You may secure these from the Conference office.)

8. Keep informed as to the work of your denomination in the field of Missions and have a prayer list for the same. (A. D. magazine will provide information as well as your packet of materials. The STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Penn., 19102 will mail you three or four letters each month from overseas personnel, for \$1.50.)

9. Study the work of the UNITED CHURCH BOARD FOR HOMELAND MINISTRIES. If you failed to get the Laity Resources packets, you may request material on this Board from 287 Park Ave. South, New York, N. Y. 10010.

DON'T

1. Try to cover the whole universe with one program.

2. Extend your meetings beyond a reasonable hour.

3. Allow a long program to tire people beyond the point of attention and interest.

4. Let one or two people do all of the program or programs.

—Mrs. Joe A. French